

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0968

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVID MCGIFFORT FROM AMBASSADOR LERNER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, MPOL, NO
SUBJECT: VISIT BY NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER TO WASHINGTON

1. BY PREVIOUS EFFORTS THROUGH SECSTATE, WE HAVE SOLICITED AN INVITATION FROM SECDEF BROWN TO MOD HANSEN FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US. THE MATTER PRESENTLY SEEMS TO BE ON HOLD, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT SECDEF SCHEDULE COULD NOT ACCOMMODATE SUCH A VISIT BEFORE MID-SUMMER.

A. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THERE ARE IMPORTANT MATTERS APPROPRIATE FOR EARLY DISCUSSION BETWEEN MOD HANSEN AND SECDEF BROWN. BY LATE APRIL, THE LONG-AWAITED REPORT OF THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION WILL HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND HANSEN PROBABLY WILL WANT TO BRIEF SECDEF ON THE SIGNIFICANCE AND PROSPECTS OF THAT REPORT. ALSO, BY LATE APRIL, THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WILL HAVE TAKEN ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO MITIGATE THEIR ECONOMIC CRISIS AND HANSEN PROBABLY WILL WANT TO BRIEF SECDEF ON THE EFFECTS THESE ACTIONS WILL HAVE ON THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE BUDGET.

B. MOD HANSEN PRESENTLY PLANS TO ATTEND BILDERBERG CONFERENCE AT PRINCETON ON 22-23 APRIL. IN CONJUNCTION THEREWITH, HE IS MAKING SEPARATE ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT SACLANT AT NORFOLK, VA. ON 24-25 APRIL. (HE IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING WITH SACLANT MATTERS SUCH AS REINFORCEMENTS, SEA-CONTROL, CONFIDENTIAL

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RE-STOCKAGE, ETC.) MOD HANSEN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SECOND SENIOR DEPUTY, SECRETARY GENERAL STEPHANSEN AND BY HIS MILITARY AIDE.

C. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE PROPOSING (BY SEPARATE MESSAGE) THAT SECDEF BROWN INVITE MOD HANSEN AND PARTY TO WASHDC IN APRIL FOR LIMITED DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE DOD OFFICIALS, AND TO INCLUDE 30-60 MINUTES PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH SECDEF.

D. WITH REGARD TO A LATER OFFICIAL VISIT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT MOD HANSEN IS OTHERWISE PLANNING A VISIT TO CANADA THE FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER, AND WOULD BE AMENABLE TO VISITING THE US IN THE SAME TIME FRAME.

2. ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE US IN ARRANGING AN EARLY VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY HANSEN WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

3. I WILL BE IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK (FRIDAY, 3 MARCH) AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO CHAT WITH YOU (AT LEAST BY PHONE) ABOUT THIS MATTER.

4. WARM REGARDS.
LERNER

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